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line throughout. See all the other passages in the Blick. H.; also Bosworth-Toller; Pastoral 463, 30; 463, 34; 209, 18; 57, 18; 85, 7; Oros. 214, 1. We need not hesitate to look upon *þ* here as = *þe* and treat it as we would *Dipa* (sc. *Dido*) *þe wifmon*, Oros. 252, 17.

It is clear, then, that if *þ* may stand for *þa*, *þæs*, *þone* (or *þam*, *þan*), *þio*, and *þe*, the sooner our editors cease to tamper with it the better.

#### GOD- WRACU.

Sievers's collection of adjectives in -u, §303, is confessedly very meagre. May I venture to add one, on the strength of *þone godwračan þeof*, Blick. Hom. 75, 26?

#### CEAST, CEST.

Bosworth-Toller gives the word = "strife," but is uncertain as to its gender. The forms *lites* = *ceasta*, E. Stud. IX, 36. b 17, and *togeanes þære ceaste*, Aelf. SS. 182, 212 fix it as feminine. Hitherto no one—to my knowledge—has thrown any light on its etymology. Is it not borrowed from the Latin *quæstio* through the Celtic *cest*? M'Alpine's Gaelic Dictionary gives *ceisd* = question, doubt, anxiety.

#### GE-LAERE = LEER, EMPTY.

Acc. S. M. *gelærne*, E. Stud. VIII, 474, 52 Kluge, p. 472, pronounces this word ἀπαξ λεγόμενον. Undoubtedly it is very rare. But cf.: *þonne se geohsa of þære idlan wambe cymð 7 of þære gelæran, ne bet þone se fnora*, "when the hicket cometh of the foul womb and of the 'leer or empty one, the sneezing doth not amend it." Leechd. II, 62, 1; and *of to micelre lærnesse* = emptiness, Leechd. II, 60, 20.

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#### TWO WORDS OF DUTCH ORIGIN.

FLY, a "marsh," occurs in no American dictionary. Stormonth prints: "VLEI OR FLY *flā* [Dutch *vlei* a marsh], in *S. Africa*, a marsh; a swamp," etc. In the wooded region to the north of the Mohawk river, in the state of New York, embracing parts of Fulton, Herkimer, and Oneida Counties, the word [pronounced *flai*] is now specifically applied to a sphagnum swamp, or a beaver meadow, in which sense it has often been heard by the writer. An en-

gineer of the new Forestry Commission, to whom I applied, states that he has had occasion, too, to use the word in its local meaning.

The word, spelled *vlye*, or *vly*, [Dutch *vallei* = French *vallée*; English *valley*], meaning a marsh, or a marshy meadow, frequently occurs in Colonial documents, describing the patents and land grants. In old New York, *Smits Vly* (afterward Queen Street, now a part of Pearl Street), according to early accounts low and marshy, gave its name to the historical Fly Market which stood at the intersection of Maiden Lane and Pearl Street.

BEER CREEK. Several tap-rooms, or, more properly, "saloons," in New York bear the somewhat peculiar title of "Beer Creek" [in the local pronunciation, *krik*]. The name is, of course, suggestive of a flowing abundance. Why, however, "Creek" a word in this locality of infrequent application, rather than 'brook', or even 'river'? The name is, apparently, a folk-etymology that goes back to a Dutch prototype. *Bierkroeg* [Bier + Kroeg: German, *Krug*, Swedish, *Krog*, Danish, *Kro*; all in the same signification, an ale-house] is a common appellation for an ale-house in Holland and, manifestly, may have been, during the Dutch possession, thus applied here.

It is by no means an isolated case of the change of a Dutch form through the influence of mistaken analogy. Arthur Kill, for instance, was *Aghter Kil* (as it is given on the old maps), the back channel; *Boomptjes Hoek*, tree point, became Bombay Hook; *Kreupelbosch*, thicket, is now Cripplebush, and there are many others which will be cited in a subsequent article.

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#### NOTES ON THE FINNSAGA.

##### I.

In his book entitled "Das Altenglische Volksepos in der ursprünglichen strophischen Form," p. 46 ff. Möller has successfully removed many of the difficulties which had hitherto opposed the interpretation of the Anglo-Saxon fragment known as "The Fight of Finnsburg" and of the corresponding episode in *Beowulf*. The correctness of his conclusion, that the combat described in the fragment is